

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01

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R 201210 Z JUN 73

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5378

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 3387

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINR, EGEN, AR, EEC

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: LEOPOLDO HUGO TETTAMANTI

REF: BUENOS AIRES 4303

1. AMBASSADOR TETTAMANTI HAS BEEN ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (EC) SINCE FEBRUARY 1967. HE HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE INFORMAL ORGANIZATION OF LATIN AMERICAN AMBASSADORS TO THE EC AND HAS IN GENERAL BEEN AN EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATIVE AND SPOKESMAN FOR ARGENTINE INTERESTS. IN RECENT MONTHS HE HAS SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME IN GENEVA IN HELPING TO PREPARE FOR ARGENTINE PARTICIPATION IN THE FORTHCOMING MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING BACK TO A POLICY- MAKING POSITION IN BUENOS AIRES.

2. TETTAMANTI IS FRIENDLY TO THE UNITED STATES AND HAS BEEN OUTSPOKEN AND HONEST IN EXPRESSING HIS OPINIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, HE RECENTLY SAID HE EXPECTS SOME DETERIORATION IN US- ARGENTINE RELATIONS AS A RESULT OF THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN ARGENTINA. HE PREDICTED SOME CHANGES IN FOREIGN INVESTMENT POLICY WHEN THE NEW GOVERNMENT TOOK OVER. HE WAS ALSO OPENLY CRITICAL OF ITT OPERATIONS IN ARGENTINA WHICH HE CLAIMED HAD BEEN OVERCHARGING ARGENTINE CUSTOMERS APPARENTLY INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT.

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3. WHILE VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC MATTERS AND GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC TO U. S. VIEWS, HE HAS MADE CLEAR THAT LATIN AMERICA HAS ITS OWN PROBLEMS AND PRIORITIES AND THAT THESE ARE NOT ALWAYS THE SAME AS THOSE OF THE U. S. FOR EXAMPLE, HE LED THE LOCAL LATIN AMERICAN AMBASSADORS IN TAKING THE POSITION THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE OUT IN FRONT ON THE " REVERSE PREFERENCE" ISSUE. HE IS ALSO IMPATIENT WITH HIS LATIN COLLEAGUES WHO OFTEN ARE MORE INTERESTED IN THE SURFACE ATMOSPHERE OF RELATIONS AND NOT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISSUES THEMSELVES. GREENWALD

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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